



TRICOTHECENE MYCOTOXINS

Agent Overview:	Tricothecene mycotoxins (T-2 mycotoxins) are nonvolatile compounds produced by filamentous fungi primarily of the genera <i>Fusarium</i> , <i>Myrotecium</i> , <i>Trichoderma</i> , and <i>Stachybotrys</i> . Symptoms are usually delayed, occurring within 2-4 hours; however, significant exposure causes immediate onset. Dermal exposure leads to burning pain, redness and blisters. Oral exposure causes vomiting and diarrhea. Ocular exposure may result in blurred vision. Inhalational exposure may cause nasal irritation and cough. Systemic symptoms may include weakness, ataxia, hypotension, coagulopathy and death. Chronic exposure causes alimentary toxic aleukia (ATA), which can mimic radiation sickness, including bone marrow suppression, significant leukopenia, petechial hemorrhages, and granulocytopenia. Chronic exposure can also cause thrombocytopenia, especially of the mucosal areas (which can be fatal); and airway edema and systemic infection.
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, Director DPHL; Christina Pleasanton, Deputy Director DPHL; or Tara Lydick, Chemical Terrorism Coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<u>Urine:</u> 25mL-50mL screw-cap container <u>Whole blood:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Three, 5 or 7 mL purple-top (EDTA) tubes (vacuum fill only) AND- One, 5 or 7 mL gray-top or green-top (vacuum fill only) AND- Two empty urine cups and two empty blood tubes for each lot # submitted.
Packaging Instructions:	<u>Urine:</u> freeze specimen upon collection and ship on dry ice; label specimens and package individually; wrap with absorbent material. <u>Whole blood:</u> place filled tubes in a shipping rack for stability, wrap the tubes in absorbent material, and secure with tape. Place the packaged tubes in a secondary unbreakable container. Specimens may be shipped cold but <i>must not</i> be frozen. <u>All:</u> wrap sample containers and layers with tamper-proof, waterproof forensic evidence tape initialed by collector, being careful not to cover the sample labels. Ship to DPHL as Biological Substance, Category B (Packing Instruction 650).
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are received at the laboratory's rear (loading dock) entrance. Submitters must present ID and complete proper forms.
Handling of Specimens:	Follow chain of custody procedures. Freeze urine specimens.
Reporting Results:	Reference laboratory will notify DPHL as soon as possible. The Potential Exposure Call Log and Information form will provide information for notification of testing results outside of the DPHL.
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, Director DPHL, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage) 24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156